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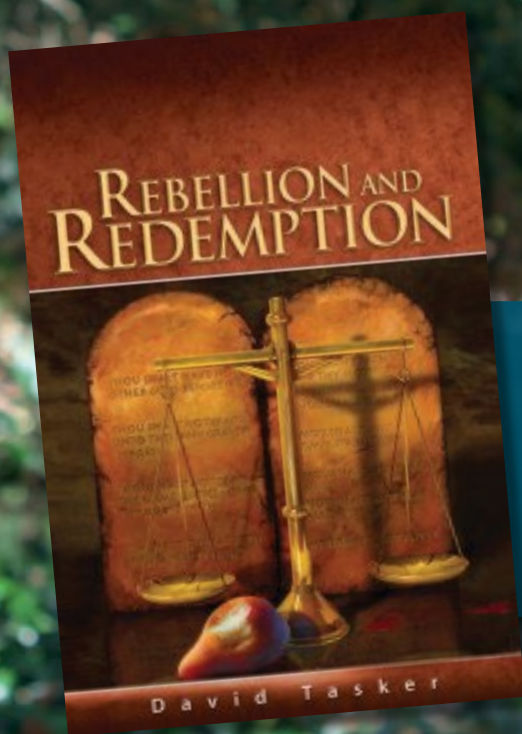
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Adventist students killed in truck accident

Wewak, Sepik, Papua New Guinea

Five Seventh-day Adventist students died when a truck they were travelling in ran off the road as they returned from a convention in Papua New Guinea.

The accident happened between Aitape and Wewak as the students returned home on December 28 from a Sepik Adventist Students Association (SEASA) convention.

The hired truck, carrying 50 students, suffered mechanical failure while climbing a hill, before rolling back and falling down a 10 metre drop.

Five people were confirmed dead initially while 12 injured students were admitted to Boram General Hospital, with five needing operations and six others hospitalised for head injuries and fractures. Since then, another of the injured students has died.

Several Pacific Adventist University (PAU) students were on the truck but only Ricah Waiu, a first year education student, was injured and has since been discharged.

The students who died immediately were Jessica Akai (a high school student from Wewak), Deborah Barry (Lae Timber College), Lorlaine Gawi (Port Moresby Technical College) and Agessah Niangz (PNG University open campus). There was a funeral service held on January 12.

"Parents of the four girls who died are strong supporters of the SEASA ministry," said SEASA president Elias Jaramo. "They are pillars in their local churches too. We are praying for peace for the grieving parents."

Church leaders in Wewak committed to support the family members of the deceased and care for the injured and hospitalised. A committee of church members from Wewak's churches was formed and called on church members and the community to contribute to the medical expenses and funeral costs.

PAU also pledged to help out in any way it could and churches in Port Moresby held fundraisers.

A team of Adventist doctors travelled to Wewak with

medical supplies to assist with treating the injured and former SEASA members also arrived to support and encourage the leaders and members of the SEASA community.

Obed Yama, writing from Wewak, broke the news to the PAU campus in an email. "Please pray for our students, the Adventist Church, parents and relatives of the deceased and those admitted," the PAU student pastor said.

Des Yaninen, who coordinated assistance from Port Moresby, said, in a Facebook post, that Boram Hospital did not have the capacity to fully treat the injured. "Many of the injured will not be able to commence studies in the 2016 academic year and some of them will have their education permanently disrupted. Over K200,000 is now required to pay for burial expenses and to transport the injured to Port Moresby for proper treatment."

A Gofundme page has been set up to receive donations. To support, please visit < <https://www.gofundme.com/seasamedicalappeal>>. —Jarrod Stackelroth/Reeves Papaol




Papua New Guinea
Adventist Tertiary Students Association

DEATH NOTICE & APPEAL

This is to notify families and friends that on the 28th of December 2015, members of the Sepik Adventist Students Association who were returning from their 5th Biennial Convention at Aitape, were involved in a fatal car accident that resulted in the loss of four female students and more than 15 sustaining critical injuries.

This incident is the first of its kind in over 90 years of Student Ministry.

JESSICA AKAI **DEBORAH BARRY** **LORLAINE GAWI** **AGESSAH NIANGZ**

These young girls stood firm in their faith in God until the tragic day their lives were taken too soon. May their beautiful Souls Rest In Peace.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the immediate families of the deceased & the injured.

We appeal to family & friends to make financial contributions to assist with the burials & injuries to the following account:

BANK: **BSP, Wewak Branch**
ACCOUNT NAME: **SDA STUDENTS TRAGEDY ACCOUNT**
ACCOUNT NUMBER: **7005 525 675**

For more information please contact:
Tony Waiu on (675) 727 19 705
Des Yaninen on (675) 733 20 558

"For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."
Romans 14:9

North gets a new president

Townsville, Queensland

Pastor Darren Slade has been named president of the Northern Australian Conference (NAC).

Pastor Slade had been serving as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tasmania, a role he stepped into at the beginning of 2011.

His appointment to the NAC fills the role left by Pastor Brett Townend, who accepted a call to become South Queensland Conference president in October.

Pastor Slade grew up on a farm in Esperance, Western Australia. After completing his Theology degree at Avondale College, he served for eight years in various churches around Adelaide (South Australia) and three years in Melbourne (Victoria).

The former auto-electrician spent two years serving as a senior pastor in Mildura prior to accepting a call to become Tasmanian Conference president.

During his 18 years of ministry, Pastor Slade has also been involved in school chaplaincy work, Pathfinders and public evangelism. He is passionate about discipleship, as evidenced by his personal motto: "to know Jesus, and make Him known". —Linden Chuang





28 is enough

James Standish

Melbourne's Prahran neighbourhood may well be the world's epicentre of hipsterism. Should Ned Kelly get his breath back* and wander over to Prahran from the Old Melbourne Gaol, he would fit in perfectly well—assuming he isn't wearing the helmet. And not just Kelly. J N Andrews and James White would look very in vogue stopping by to have their beards trimmed at Greville Street's "Brother Wolf Barber Shop and Shave Parlor".

I was in Prahran on New Year's Eve with my beautiful wife on a very enjoyable little wedding anniversary celebration. As we walked down Chapel Street I got a kick out of watching all the J N Andrews clones walk by—anyone for a mission trip to Switzerland? All the facial hair brought to mind a friend who recently proclaimed that no Adventist pastor should be allowed to sport a beard. It is, he said, unbecoming and unprofessional. Well then, we better not come recruiting for pastors in Prahran! It seemed an odd issue for my friend to take a stand on, so I ribbed him a little—reminding him of some rather prominent Christians with facial hair beginning with, well, you know who. But he wasn't backing down. Shave off your beard or get off that pulpit. That was his *message du jour*.

And it's not the only surprisingly strident message I've heard of late. Another friend recently posted on Facebook that if someone believes in full obedience to God's law they should be kicked out of the Church. Seriously? Yet another friend, this one living overseas, told me he had just been banned from recruiting students at GYC because those kids are the "wrong type" of Adventists. All of these strike me as a great shame, as if we randomly chose 100 human beings from around the world, do you know how many would be Adventists? Zero. That's right. It takes a random sample of 400 people to produce the likelihood that a single whole Adventist will be among them. We really are a tiny bunch—we don't need to divide ourselves any further.

All this divisiveness comes out of our laudable desire for purity. However, the more points we believe others must share in order to achieve a level of acceptable purity, the lower the chance of achieving unity. But, ironically, unity is a sign of purity. Indeed, Jesus prayed, "May they experience

such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me" (John 17:23). Without unity there can be no purity.

So how can we achieve purity in unity without compromising our spiritual integrity? The trick is discerning between core beliefs on which we cannot compromise, and our opinions, prejudices and preferences, on which we can and should. The Lord originally gave 10 Commandments as the bedrock test of purity. Jesus simultaneously made the test more succinct and expansive: "love God with all your heart . . . and your neighbour as yourself." Today we've unpacked those into 28 core beliefs.

I suggest that 28 is more than enough points on which to test purity. None of us need to add a 29th. Rather, we need to follow Paul's advice in Colossians 2:16 and not judge each other on peripherals. Music styles, the role of women in church, what youth programs, which Adventist TV network—on all of it, and every other non-core matter, *viva la difference*. Unity requires us to focus on the essential and have the humility to accept diversity in everything else.

A few years ago I was speaking with an American academic about Roger Williams. "Remember," she said, "Williams became so inflexible that he would only worship with his wife—and she probably wasn't pure enough for his liking." Williams' conclusion that all churches are impure is, of course, right—they are after all, composed of fallible human beings like you and me. But as Christ established His church and prayed for its unity, disassociating from everyone else in order to get closer to Him seems, well, rather misguided doesn't it?

Ellen White, reflecting on unity, noted: "Again and again the angel has said to me, 'Press together, press together, be of one mind, of one judgement,' Christ is the leader, and you are brethren; follow Him."

Let's be united on our core doctrines, accept our diversity on everything else and, more than anything, "press together" in 2016. Even if in so doing we risk coming in contact with some whiskers.

* For matters of life, death and resurrection refer to Fundamental 26.

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"Old man at Oksapmin, Western Highlands."

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Our vision is to be a church that...
knows
experiences
and shares
our hope in Jesus Christ



Keeping it simple

Tracey Bridcutt

"9 Ridiculous Ideas That Made People Ridiculously Rich"—I came across this website post recently. The article, by Business Insider Australia, highlighted 10 "ridiculous" ideas that surprisingly took off and made bucket loads of money for the people who thought them up.

Among them was the Pet Rock—a craze that brought back a few memories! I never owned one but I recall being rather envious of one of my primary school friends who did. "Rocky" went everywhere with her—it sat on her desk at school, was carried around in a little basket and was carefully placed on her bedside table each night. Pet rocks were ideal from a parent's perspective too: they didn't need to be fed, groomed or walked, they weren't disobedient and they never died. Who would have thought that such a ridiculously simple idea would ever take off? But it did—and in a big way, earning its inventor Gary Dahl, a former advertising executive, an estimated \$15m in just the first six months.

I scrolled down the list and another "ridiculous idea" caught my eye—the slinky. Now that's something I did own as a child. It used to be fun setting it up at the top of a flight of stairs and watching it "walk" down. According to the article, the slinky was inspired out of clumsiness after naval engineer Richard James dropped a tension spring and observed it "slink" away across the floor. But James was apparently so nervous about launching the toy that he convinced a friend to come along with him for moral support. He shouldn't have worried though: the first 400 sold out within 90 minutes. His estimated profit was \$250 million.

The article got me thinking about how simple ideas can also have a huge impact spiritually. I came across such an idea not long ago—surprisingly while in the bathroom of my workplace at Adventist Media. Behind the toilet door someone had placed a sticky note with a Bible verse on it. It's a simple idea that has multiplied—at last count there were 10 sticky notes with Bible verses on the door. An inspirational message every time you go to the bathroom!

Another simple idea is sharing a Bible verse on your Facebook page. A good friend of mine shares her morning devotional each day—what a wonderful way to bring God into the minds of your friends; hopefully they will share the message with their friends and so on . . . the potential is enormous.

Our youth pastor came up with a simple plan to reach out to people visiting the hospital next to our church. He got members of the teen group to place a flower and a Bible message on the windscreen of each car in the hospital car park. A beautiful sight—and what an impact!

Sometimes we think we have to spend many hours coming up with elaborate programs to share God with the world. Large-scale outreach programs will always have their place, but let's not forget that simple, impromptu ideas can also be very effective. While you won't make millions of dollars out of them, you are bound to enrich many lives.

What's something simple you can do today to make an impact for God?

Tracey Bridcutt is copyeditor for Adventist Record.

First things first

New Year's resolutions don't generally work for me but I have been able to keep two of them. A few years ago I decided to read the Bible through in a year. I planned a program, prayed about it and started reading every day. I missed a few days (usually Sabbaths and Sundays) but generally kept up. That was a few years ago and now I read through the Bible at least once every year.

The only other time a New Year's resolution worked was after I went to the doctor for a check-up before an overseas mission trip. I had to have my height, weight and blood pressure checked. The doctor was not very diplomatic: "You're overweight and unfit." Hearing the truth hurt—but it helped me to make a decision. I began walking with my wife every morning and since then we have eaten far more healthy meals (and we were already lacto-ovo vegetarians). I can now fit into the trousers I wore on my honeymoon—but that was not always the case!

But they are the only two New Year's resolutions that have worked for me. Not a good strike rate for a 50-something-year-old! On reflection these two worked and are both related to living out the values I hold because God loves me. I want to know this loving God better and I want to be healthy to serve better.

Whether New Year's resolutions work for you or not, this is a reminder to keep trying! The battle with this year has not been lost yet. Making the resolution connect to a real value you hold and praying to our loving God about it worked for me. It might work for you too. "By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life . . ." (2 Peter 1:3, NLT).

I would like to be a better disciple of Jesus this year, and I'm sure my family, friends and work colleagues want me to be better too. This is my prayer for you as well—that you become the best follower of Jesus this year that you could ever be!

Glenn Townend is president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific.



Reopening

Nine months after the attack which saw almost 150 Christian students killed by Al-Shabaab extremists, Garissa University College, Kenya, has reopened. Many students have moved to other universities and some reports claim it is mainly Muslim students returning. — *The Christian Post*



Fired?

A Christian College in Chicago is taking steps to terminate professor Larycia Hawkins who, after the San Bernardino shootings, said that Muslims and Christians worship the same God. Wheaton College has suspended Prof Hawkins and asked her to affirm their statement of faith—the fourth time they have done so. — *The Guardian*



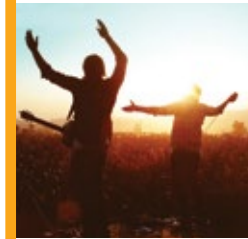
No greater love

US president Barack Obama cited a quote from Jesus during an emotional address to the nation earlier this month about tighter gun control legislation. The president described the recent sacrifice of a high-school student who shielded three girls from gunfire as “an act of heroism a lot bigger than anything we should ever expect from a 15-year-old”, before quoting John 15:13. — *The Christian Post*



Reaching out

An Adventist church in Norway is engaging with refugees, distributing Bibles in Arabic and Farsi and using Google Translate to communicate with them. They have also developed a multilingual Sabbath School, translating each lesson into Arabic and Farsi. — *Christian Today*



School of pop

Europe's first Christian pop academy will be launched in September, founded by the Evangelical Church of Westphalia (Germany). It will train students to become professional Christian pop musicians, admitting approximately 10 students per semester. — *Deutsche Welle*



Imprisoned

A Seventh-day Adventist believer has been jailed for two years in Kazakhstan for “inciting religious hatred” with a profession of faith. The court ruling, which was handed down on December 28, has raised concerns about religious freedom in the former Soviet republic. The defendant, Yklas Kabduakasov, denies the charge and is considering an appeal. — *ANN staff*

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Adventist schools perform well in final exams

Newcastle, New South Wales

Macquarie Adventist College has good reason to celebrate following the release of Higher School Certificate (HSC) results for the class of 2015.

Having achieved 50 top band results, the Newcastle-based college is one of the top 100 high schools in New South Wales, ranked at 88.

Year 12 dux Zoe Barton achieved Top All Rounder status, having received a mark of 90 or higher in all five examinations undertaken. She received an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.05 and came ninth in the state for Modern History.

"I would have ranked myself a 'C' student right up to Year 10, but I turned myself around in Year 11 and worked really consistently through every subject," Zoe said. "My parents were so supportive and encouraged me to do my best."

Avondale School also registered strong HSC results with 22 per cent of its students placed on the distinguished achievers' list, having received one or more top band results.

Two students were among the top 10 students in the state for their vocational education and training exams, placing fifth in the state for hospitality and seventh in construction, respectively.

"HSC results are always exciting. It's the culmination for most of our students of a significant amount of hard work and study," said Avondale Secondary School head Benton Craig. —*Vania Chew*



Avondale school graduates for 2015.



David Gilmore introducing two key Mungkarta leaders.

New chapel for remote Aboriginal community

Tennant Creek, Northern Territory

A small "half-day" chapel has been constructed at the Aboriginal community of Mungkarta in the Northern Territory.

Mungkarta, situated 80 kilometres south of Tennant Creek, will now have regular Sabbath and mid-week gatherings.

An official opening service was held the night before the opening of Tennant Creek church (see *Record*, December 18), where Pastor Steve Piez, Australian Union Conference ATSIM

director, presented a message about persevering in the faith. Charlie Bobongie was a special guest from Tasmania. He and his wife had been teachers in the community years ago. Another special guest was Dr Carville Tolson, an American physician who recently returned to the US.

Roslyn Duggy displayed two pieces of her Aboriginal artwork depicting the gospel, including a dot painting featuring a symbol of Jesus in the centre. —*David Gilmore/NAC Conference*

NZ pastor dies unexpectedly

Wanganui, New Zealand

North New Zealand pastor Frank Toa passed away from sudden heart failure on November 16, 2015.

A funeral service was held at Wanganui church on November 22, with family, friends and fellow ministers coming together to pay tribute to the pastor of Hawera and Wanganui churches and Raetihi group.

The service was conducted by North New Zealand Conference (NNZC) lead pastor Eddie Tupai, who acknowledged Pastor Toa's 30 years of dedicated service to the Church, including 19 years working in various roles for Sanitarium and 11 years as a church pastor in the NNZC.

"He came with a humble, hardworking and warm humoured approach to ministry," Pastor Tupai said. "He had a ready smile, an encouraging word and a confident view of life."

Pastor Tupai also paid tribute to Pastor Toa's "straight and sometimes fiery sermons", as well as his success in using the

Complete Health Improvement Program as an "evangelistic entry point" to sharing the gospel with the Maori people. "He was loved and highly regarded by his churches and communities."

Pastor Tupai read out a message from former NNZC president Pastor Jerry Matthews, who first met Pastor Toa when he was a theology student at Avondale College and later called him to the NNZC pastoral ministry team in 2005.

"I am searching for one word to describe Frank as a pastor and colleague, and the word 'genuine' best describes him," read the message.

Pastor Matthews also acknowledged Pastor Toa's wife, Lyn. "NNZC has been blessed over the last 11 years through an earnest, dedicated, committed, spiritual team ministry that you and Frank brought to our people."

Pastor Toa is survived by Lyn, his four children and six grandchildren. Two weeks prior to his passing, he proudly witnessed the graduation of his grandson Ariki from Longburn Adventist College. —*Linden Chuang/Eddie Tupai*



Pastor Frank Toa.



GREY NOMADS

MAY 2016

The North NSW Conference's annual Grey Nomads Camp will be held from 13-21 May 2016 at the Adventist Convention Centre, Stuarts Point, NSW.

The event is open to grey nomads from across Australia - and beyond!

It's an excellent opportunity for retirees to meet and fellowship together.

For more information about Grey Nomads 2016, contact Debbie Head on (02) 4944 3220 or email greynomads@adventist.org.au



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

North New South Wales

Making heroes to change the world

Auckland, New Zealand

What does it take to make a hero? Is it the ability to fly? Super speed? X-ray vision? We often spend much of our time wondering what it would really take to change the world.

Last November 693 Kiwis proved that they didn't need superpowers to become heroes and make a difference. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) New Zealand held its annual charity run along the picturesque Mission Bay in Auckland. The event challenges people of all ages and abilities to complete the 5km, 10km or 21km courses, while helping to raise funds for ADRA's work at home and abroad.

This year's theme was "Making Heroes", with runners and volunteers encouraged to dress up as their favourite superhero to show that anyone can be a hero.

One group of entrants, the Williams, possessed a special superpower that helped them complete the course—the power of family.

Chris (56), his wife Christine (55), and their three daughters Rebecca (24), Esther (22) and Jessica (20), all participated in the run—proving that the family that runs together, stays together!

"My family encouraged me to keep going and get to the finish," Jessica said.

This was her sixth time completing the event but the first time she had done it alongside her entire family, and she noticed the difference having the support of others made. "For my mother it was very encouraging to have my sister and father walk with her," Jessica said.

Around the world, children living in extreme poverty are often left to walk on their own for up to 20km to access food and water, and to go to school, while their parents work tirelessly to create a brighter future. Pretty heroic right? What we consider to be a half-marathon some children experience as a daily walk to school.

This year's charity run raised more than \$NZ82,000 for people struggling around the world. ADRA NZ would like to thank all those who volunteered or participated in the event. It shows that heroes are ordinary people who choose to do extraordinary things.

For more details on how you, too, can be a hero go to <http://adra.org.nz/get-involved/>.

"And know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).



Sarah Ryan is communications and PR intern for ADRA New Zealand.

Record number graduate at Avondale

by Brenton Stacey

Avondale College of Higher Education's first jointly conferred awards were presented during a ceremony for a record 361 graduands last month.

The Jointly Conferred Award Scheme is one of the key principles of Avondale's memorandum of understanding with Charles Sturt University. "It marks a new milestone in our relationship," said Avondale vice-president (Quality and Strategy) Professor Jane Fernandez. "It will also bring significant advantages to our graduates who are the real winners here."

The scheme sees a single qualification jointly conferred and accredited by both institutions. Graduates of a degree award will receive a testamur carrying the seals of both institutions. "The scheme provides tangible endorsement of the comparability of standards and awards between the two self-accrediting institutions," Prof Fernandez said.

"Charles Sturt's involvement reflects its strong mentoring capacity and its goodwill to the sector, principles from which we have benefitted."

The scheme is a first for Charles Sturt. "We usually enter into joint conferrals with other universities only when we've shared teaching," said deputy vice-chancellor and vice-president (Academic) Professor Toni Downes. "This is the first time we've entered into a joint degree with a non-university and when we've not conducted any teaching. In this case, we're sharing and benchmarking our quality assurance mechanisms."

Avondale's progress in "seeking to improve its quality assurance mechanisms for the benefit of its students" has built trust with Charles Sturt, said Prof Downes, who also sits as an external member on the Academic Board at Avondale.

Avondale honoured quality and commitment by awarding an honorary Master of the College to Alan Thrift during the graduation ceremony on December 13, 2015. His tenure as head of music, which began in 1957, spanned 34 years. Mr Thrift expanded the choral repertoire into a broader range of styles and genres, producing highly accomplished, technically challenging performances. His choirs appeared on radio and television, and toured

every state of Australia along with New Zealand and the United States. "Alan's artistic and ministry connections in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and among Avondale alumni and his profiling of Avondale in Australia's performing arts community make him a living legend," said Dr Lyell Heise, director of the Institute of Worship at Avondale.

Perhaps of more importance, however, was Mr Thrift's mentoring of young musicians, Dr Heise added. "It's due largely to his influence that many ministers, music professionals and teachers have made and continue to make their mark around the world."

Among the record graduates were Avondale's third and fourth Doctor of Philosophy graduates; 37 others are enrolled in the degree. Harvey Henderson, originally from Malawi, explored how adolescents in Botswana understood the risk of their peers contracting HIV and AIDS and suggested strategies for reducing the spread of the disease. Medical practitioner Dr Elizabeth Ostring studied the theology of human work as found in the Genesis narrative compared with a co-creationist theology of human work. The ceremony also saw the graduation of Avondale's first Master of Philosophy student, Pastor Mark Turner.

A posthumous degree was awarded to Danielle Bradshaw, a final-year Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) student who died from cancer before completing her course. "Even in illness, Danielle did all she could to keep making progress on her degree," said Academic registrar Dr Gwen Wilkinson. "She valued education and demonstrated persistence and resilience in her studies. These characteristics are worthy of recognition." Ms Bradshaw's family received the award on her behalf.

Swelling the size of the class were 35 graduates who completed a Certificate IV in Presenting Community Health Education Programs. The course was developed by Sibilla Johnson, director of Adventist Health Ministries for the Adventist Church in Victoria. Avondale is the registered training organisation services provider for the course.

Brenton Stacey is public relations officer for Avondale College of Higher Education.



Dream

by Dr Branimir Schubert

WHO WAS THE GREATEST LEADER IN HISTORY? Think for a moment before answering. Dwight Eisenhower? He led the Allies' invasion of Europe and, if that were not enough, served two terms as US president during a period of America's greatest relative power in the world. He'd have to be up there somewhere, wouldn't he? Maybe you'd look to a thought leader—someone like the great British philosopher John Locke, who profoundly changed the way we view individual liberty? Or does someone from the business world jump out at you? Steve Jobs or Sir Richard Branson? Or a visionary artist like Picasso or Rembrandt? A sporting hero like Cathy Freeman, a scientist like Nicolaus Copernicus or a civil rights leader like Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr?

They are all remarkable leaders.

But oddly enough, none of them, or anyone else in human history for that matter, has come close to matching the profound influence of a poor Carpenter from an obscure province of the Roman Empire whose capital was destined for complete annihilation shortly after His death.

He never wrote a book, painted a picture, invented any gizmos or made any money. He never won an election, a race or a prize of any kind. No hit songs. No TV appearances. No magazine covers or name in lights.

If there's one person who, by any normal reckoning, should not be a leader, it's Jesus Christ of Nazareth. And yet today, 2.2 billion people say they follow Him. And the world is full of hospitals, schools, universities, charitable endeavours of every kind and churches of every shape and size dedicated to Him. If there's one example of what it means to be a leader, it isn't Steve Jobs or Dwight Eisenhower, it's Jesus Christ. And it's not just the power of His leadership but the destination in which He takes His followers that makes Him incomparable in the annals of leadership history.

What can we learn from Him about who we need to be as we aim to use our influence in a God-honouring way?

This is a critical question as it shifts our attention from "doing" and "having" to "being". Our natural tendency in approaching strategic planning is to ask "what must be done?" and "do we have the resources?" Both are impor-

tant questions but the key to unlocking the right answers is in the “who do I need to be?” so that I can identify the resources and eventually do what needs to be accomplished.

Imagine if we as leaders committed to becoming available to God fully to make us into the leaders He wants us to be? How would that look? How would we look? If we humbled our hearts and let the Holy Spirit mould our characters into a reflection of the greatest Leader in history, what would we be able to accomplish as individuals, within our families and within our churches?

That's the dream that energises me and gives me direction for the future in my role as our Division's ministerial secretary. It's my dream that every single one of our pastors—and our lay leaders too—will follow the example of Jesus and lead with power, compassion, intelligence and complete humility. To do that, it's my goal to be that kind of leader myself, and in the role in which I serve, to cultivate competent pastors who are connected, committed, contributing and commissioning.

I hope that together as a team we can dream this dream and pray for the Holy Spirit to work on all of us to bring it to fruition.

Cultivate

No dream comes into existence unless there is intentionality and focus. Thus, I am committed to cultivating this dream, to focus on it and to channel my time and resources in a strategic manner. It's like a field that needs cultivating to ensure the right crop grows. I am committing to be the kind of leader who will cultivate and help you cultivate pastoral teams that are:

Connected

Leadership is all about relationships. It does not happen in a vacuum. We cannot lead unless we are connected. First and foremost we are connected to God, being aware of and under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The life and ministry of Jesus becomes our passion and model. We are practising disciplines that best connect us with the One who has called us and who sends us. We are also connected to the community we serve. Further, we are connected to our families in a meaningful way. Our spouses and children are the primary recipients of the gifts God has given to us. Finally, we are also connected with the Church organisation and its leadership. This is the context in which our ministry happens and we become active participants in it.

Committed

Connection must progress to a tangible commitment. I become a leader on whom others can count. I am committed to God, to His church, to His people. I am committed to the commission I have received and will discharge my responsibilities with a passion that reflects God's passion

for humanity in giving His Son Jesus Christ as a living sacrifice. While we know and fully understand that the human structures and organisational expressions are imperfect, we nevertheless commit to being agents of positive influence, always constructive even in our criticism. The people we work with must know they can count on us.

Contributing

Our commitment then translates into specific outcomes that are SMARTER: Simple, Measurable, Attractive, Realistic, Time-sensitive, Ecological (taking into account the environment in which we function) and Resourced. So the dream does not remain a dream; it becomes something we are pursuing with passion and which becomes a tangible reality. As contributors, we can look back at every day and see we have made progress. We can look back at the last month and see we have moved towards the dream. We

can look back at the past year and know we have made a difference. Ultimately, we have contributed to the health and growth of those under our care, to the functioning of our churches and communities.

Commissioning

Using the example of Jesus, we are acutely aware that our main role is to be multiplying disciples. Yes, we respond to God's commissioning for us, but then we are actively involved in commissioning others, deploying their passions, gifts and talents in kingdom-building and movement-creating. Our contribution is not measured by how busy we are but on how many we have equipped and trained, mentored and encouraged. No matter what roles we have, we can always have two or three individuals we are personally commissioning for kingdom work.

Conclusion

As we look forward we have choices to make. We all want to be as effective as we can be with the talents God has entrusted to us. There is no-one in history who has come close to doing more with less than Jesus Christ. He shows us what we can do when we let the Holy Spirit guide our lives and turn us into powerful leaders for God. I choose to follow His example and in my role it's my goal to urge every one of you to do the same by cultivating competent pastors/leaders who are connected, committed, contributing and commissioning. My dream is that as a result there will be many more disciples who are creating a movement that is responding to God's commission to call all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel and to prepare the world for His soon return.



Dr Branimir Schubert is ministerial secretary for the South Pacific Division

There is no-one in history who has come close to doing more with less than Jesus Christ.



Manna from Perth

by Vania Chew

BEV'S STORY BEGAN IN A SMALL TOWN IN SOUTH Australia. Her mother ran a launderette and her father was a violent alcoholic with a hot temper. It eventually got to the stage where police intervention was necessary to protect Bev and her family. The police personally flew Bev, her mother and her little brother to Adelaide to get away from her father. They moved in with Bev's grandparents, who ran a boarding house.

At the age of 10, Bev made two staunch resolutions. Firstly, she would never drink alcohol. She had already seen for herself the pain, heartbreak and irreparable damage that it could cause. Her second resolution was to give the world her love because she had never experienced love herself. Unlike fickle New Year's Eve resolutions that are broken a few days later, she was determined to meet these goals.

But how could she give her love to the world?

Many years later, on a rainy day in 1996, Bev and her husband John were in the city of Perth (WA). Bev noticed a group of homeless people taking shelter under trees in a nearby park.

"Let's go home and make some soup for them," she suggested.

John was speechless. He realised that Bev didn't mean this to be a one-off activity. It wasn't that he was opposed to service. Quite the contrary. They had fostered several children over the years and even adopted a three-and-a-half-week-old baby. They had been involved in their fair share of community work—Bev had even formed the first deaf signing choir.

But everything was different now. They were retired farmers. John had worked hard all his life. And he had no desire to start up a new mission now. He silently prayed that his wife would either come up with a different idea or that the council would refuse them permission to work with the homeless people.

"When I look back to 1996, I had been an Adventist

for 42 years. I thought I had been a 'good' Seventh-day Adventist," John says. "But actually I was like the priest and Levite when they wanted nothing to do with the wounded traveller."

His attitude quickly changed once they began feeding the people in the park.

"Instead of this work being the last thing I want to do, it has become the first thing I do!" John declares. He and Bev formed a community organisation known as Manna Inc.

Today, Manna Inc has fed the homeless for more than 19 years and it's one of the largest providers of meals for disadvantaged people in Perth. The organisation distributes more than 90,000 meals each year, including soup, a main course with a vegetarian option and dessert. More than 200 volunteers give up their time on a regular basis to prepare and distribute these meals.

But that's not all Manna does.

In 2001, they discovered that many children in Perth were attending school each day without breakfast and this inspired their School Breakfast Program. It aims to provide a healthy and substantial meal for students five days a week for 40 weeks of the school year. In 2011, they also began a breakfast program for high school students. But it wasn't just food that the students needed.

In 2008, Manna began providing winter school uniforms for students who couldn't afford them. By winter of 2014, they had provided uniforms to children in 42 schools.

Manna has also been involved in several other projects such as Christmas lunches for seniors, providing meals for other charities and even running Manna training programs for other states and countries.

"All this and much more is only possible by God's grace," John says. "We have had many miracles, learnt many things and we are still learning. It has been a wonderful journey."



Vania Chew is PR/editorial assistant for Adventist Record.



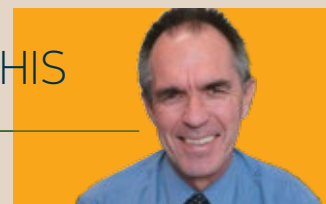
Let the children

Let the little children come to the highest,
 Let them go to Jesus because He is not biased,
 Heaven is for everyone especially for kids,
 Many people believe these words are a bunch of fibs,
 But heaven was created for you to enjoy and generate gratification,
 Instead of sadness, heartache, grief and desolation,
 But for you to enter the kingdom of heaven,
 You have to humble yourself and act like 11,
 Jesus loves little children to be happy,
 Instead of being deprived and shabby,
 Many little children would love to come with Jesus,
 But their parents block them away and do whatever pleases,
 We need to be the role model and be an emissary,
 And deliver God's Word just like a missionary,
 We have to present it to them without ferocity,
 And let them accept it wholeheartedly,
 So forget your troubles,
 Because in heaven there is no rubble,
 It is clean and satisfying,
 There will be no mourning or crying,
 Because in heaven all children are permitted,
 All demoniacal spirits will be forbidden,
 So my message for you today,
 Is that heaven is a place for all to stay,
 So let us children begin the revival,
 In anticipation of Jesus' arrival.

Jordan Waterstone is in Year 7 at Nunawading Christian College, Vic.

OPENING HIS WORD

Gary Webster



The Jesus boat and the God of second chances

It happened in a fishing boat similar to the one discovered on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in 1986. As directed by Christ, His disciples had come to Galilee to meet Him. While waiting, Peter suggested they go fishing. However after fishing all night they caught nothing until Christ encouraged them to try fishing on the other side of the boat. When they did, they caught so many fish the net was too heavy to haul in. It was almost a repeat of how Jesus had helped Peter catch fish some 2-3 years earlier when He called him to full-time ministry. But why repeat the event?

Read Matthew 26:31,32; John 21:3-6; Luke 5:4-11.

The answer is found in what follows. After a beach breakfast, prepared by Jesus Himself, publicly, and three times after asking Peter if he loved Him, Jesus commissioned him to feed His sheep. By this, along with catching fish for Peter this second time, Jesus was saying: "Peter though you have fallen badly in denying Me, My love for you is just the same. I still want you as My apostle and I want the others to know it."

Read John 21:9-17.

Perhaps you have let God down badly—maybe, like Peter even publicly—and now you doubt not only God's forgiving grace, but also His willingness to want you in His service. This story is your absolute assurance that as He did for Peter, Jesus will do the same for you. He is God of much more than a second chance. Throw yourself on Him right now. He will never turn you away. He has a great plan for your life no matter how young or old you are.

Read Matthew 18:21,22; John 6:37.



The Sea of Galilee boat, also called the Jesus boat, was a 1st century AD fishing boat discovered in 1986 on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.



Youngsters bring love of Christ to dump

Children and volunteers from Operation Food for Life's (OFFL) Born Free Sanctuary recently visited families at Baruni rubbish dump in Port Moresby (PNG), bringing with them more than 150 food parcels and a spirit of love. The children helped out in Sabbath School by singing hymns and offering smiles and hugs to the impoverished families—a remarkable gesture considering most of these children and teenagers were abandoned by their parents before finding refuge at the Born Free Sanctuary.—OFFL

Budding journalists

Two young people from the Nalawa church Pathfinder club have won prizes in a *Fiji Times* journalism competition, taking out the Best Editorial Comment and Best Photograph categories. Charlotte Patricia (pictured left) and Rarawa Tagilala (right), Year 13 students at Ra High School, received awards of \$F100, certificates and bags from the *Fiji Times* team for their winning entries in the Kaila Design Your Own Newspaper Competition. Ra High School was among 22 schools from across Fiji that participated in the competition. Apart from winning the Best Editorial Comment award, Charlotte was also selected to work as an intern in the *Times'* newsroom for a week.—Sarome Fiu Tikoduadua



Commissioning service

Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH) chaplain Nalissa Maberly was commissioned at Fox Valley Adventist Church on November 28, 2015, with family, friends and a number of non-Adventists attending the special worship service. Several church leaders also took part in the program, including South Pacific Division Ministerial Association secretary Dr Branimir Schubert (ordination prayer, welcome) and SAH Spiritual Care Services team manager Pastor Alex Currie (charge). Born in Thailand to pioneer missionaries Clifton and Karen Maberly, Nalissa has long held a passion for ministry. She helped spearhead a number of outreach initiatives while studying Business at Walla Walla University (US), and has served in a number of ministry roles since completing her post-graduate diploma in Ministry (Avondale College) and masters degree in Chaplaincy (Sydney College of Divinity).

Bilibili adventure

Members of Nalawa Pathfinder Club (Fiji) had a holiday to remember late last year when they manoeuvred their "bilibilis" (bamboo rafts) from Nakorovou Village in Ra Province down the Wainibuka River to Nabulini Village. Despite the challenges—including a night sleeping in the bush using leaves as beds—the Pathfinders learnt much and enjoyed the trip.—Siteri Tokalau



Dr Tasker develops SS quarterly

The great controversy is a universal message but the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for this quarter—entitled "Rebellion and Redemption"—is particularly special for the South Pacific Division (SPD). That's because it was prepared by Avondale College Ministry and Theology senior lecturer Dr David Tasker. The former SPD Field Secretary spent two years developing the Bible Study Guide, with an additional two years dedicated to completing a companion book with the same title. The 2016 Q1 lessons run from December 26, 2015 to March 25, 2016.—Record staff

Spirit of service

A team of 11 Sanitarium, Life Health Food and Vitality Works employees from Australia and New Zealand converged on the island of Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu for the latest instalment of the annual Spirit of Sanitarium Awards International Community Project, run in partnership with ADRA Australia. During the trip, the team offered health and good hygiene presentations to local communities and assisted in the construction of two latrines and a 22,500-litre water tank, which was funded by a \$A15,000 donation from Sanitarium. The team also provided two schools with supplies and new sporting equipment.—Darren Hagen



R

HEALTH FEATURE

with Cathy McDonald

Keeping connections

The new year usually means a slowdown in our social schedules after the busy Christmas period when it's not unusual to have a steady stream of gatherings with family and friends as people make time to connect with those closest to them.

While for some it's a welcome break after a month of parties, for others it can be quite the opposite. A recent study on Australian living arrangements found that one in four Australian households comprises someone living alone. There's nothing wrong with that in itself, but 26 per cent reported that they often felt lonely, compared with 16 per cent of people living with others. Even more concerning is that 25 per cent of people living alone rated their physical health as below average, compared to 17 per cent of people living with others.

So as our social calendars wind down it's important to remember to remain connected with those closest to us. It doesn't have to be a big party or social gathering; a quick catch up over a hot drink or even a regular phone call is all it takes to help keep social bonds strong.



Berry soda

Preparation time: 5 minutes Cooking time: Nil Serves: 3

150g frozen raspberries

200ml cranberry juice

½ lemon, juice only

1½ tablespoons icing sugar

ice cubes

1 bottle soda water (300ml per glass)

1. Puree raspberries, lemon juice, icing sugar and cranberry juice.
2. Divide amongst glasses, add ice cubes, top with soda and stir to combine.
3. Garnish with mint/lemon slices.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVE: 200kJ (48cal). Protein <1g. Fat <1g. Carbohydrate 10g. Sodium 31mg. Potassium 110mg. Calcium 11mg. Iron 0.2mg. Fibre 1g.

Head to Sanitarium's website to find a great range of summer drink recipes and sign up for the free recipe of the week.



Call and arrange to speak to one of our qualified nutritionists at Sanitarium Lifestyle Medicine Services on 1800 673 392 (in Australia) or 0800 100 257 (in New Zealand). Alternatively, email us at nutrition@sanitarium.com.au (Australia) or nutrition@sanitarium.co.nz (New Zealand). For more great recipes and health articles visit our website www.sanitarium.com.au or www.sanitarium.co.nz

Sanitarium

LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
SERVICES



Honesty, humility, humanity

by James Standish

I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) for a decade. I've been to the Highlands, up to New Ireland and New Britain, to Port Moresby many times, and I've even been all the way to the beautiful island of Mussau.

This is what I've noticed over the decade: PNG is developing at a rapid pace. And my observation is backed up by statistics.

According to the World Bank, PNG was one of the fastest growing economies during the past decade. And, according to the Asian Development Bank, the country experienced a blistering 9 per cent GDP growth in 2015.¹

This is, on the face of it, very good news. Economic growth means funds for new infrastructure: schools, hospitals, transportation hubs and industries.

Or at least it can.

But it doesn't have to.

"The love of money is the root of all evil," we're told in the Bible (1 Timothy 6:10), and there is a real danger that the love of money will prevent PNG from following a path of sustainable development that benefits a broad range of

its people. There's a danger that money will be siphoned off, enriching only a very few, while much of it goes offshore.

How do I know this is a danger?

Let me give you a cautionary tale. It's about another nation that's also rich in natural gas and has enormous oil reserves. It's a nation I've visited and what I saw there should give everyone in PNG cause for concern. Why? Because this nation proves that no matter how much money is generated, if it isn't managed well, if it isn't handled honestly, poverty and violence will grow unrestrained.

This nation is Nigeria.

Estimates vary on how much oil and natural gas wealth Nigeria has received over the decades. It is, however, agreed that the revenue is measured in the trillions of dollars.

British Prime Minister David Cameron put it this way in 2013: "Last year Nigeria's oil exports were worth almost a hundred billion dollars. That is more than the total net aid to the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa. So put simply: unleashing the natural resources in these countries dwarfs

anything aid can achieve, and transparency is absolutely critical to that end. So we're going to push for more transparency on who owns companies; on who's buying up land and for what purpose; on how governments spend their money; on how gas, oil and mining companies operate; and on who is hiding stolen assets and how we recover and return them."²

It's impossible to know how much of Nigeria's oil, natural gas and other mineral wealth has been stolen. In 2012, *The Economist* reported that "A former senior World Banker, Oby Ezekwesili, reckons that \$400 billion of Nigeria's oil revenue has been stolen or misspent . . ." Billions of dollars from natural gas and other resources has also been pilfered.

Today Nigeria is rated by Transparency International as one of the most corrupt nations on earth. There is economic corruption. Political corruption. The military is reportedly corrupt. And the police force is also reported to be rife with systemic corruption.

What is the result?

A nation that is phenomenally wealthy is today a dysfunctional, violent dystopia.

According to *The Economist*, more than 50 per cent of Nigerians live on less than \$2 a day. You may believe that \$2 goes a lot further in Africa. It doesn't. In fact, many items are actually more expensive in Nigeria than they are in Europe. According to an Expat Arrivals report, the cost of living in the two largest cities in Nigeria is higher than that of Berlin or Barcelona!³

The report goes on to describe the extreme economic disparity in Nigeria this way: ". . . in Nigeria there remains a glaring absence of a middle class. The rich are filthy rich and the poor are dismally, irrevocably poor."⁴

As a result, Nigeria does very poorly on the UN's Human Development Index (HDI)—ranking all the way down at 152nd in the world. The HDI measures a broad range of population indicators, including health, education and the standard of living enjoyed by the broad population.

Remember, this is a nation that has had decades of immense resources wealth flowing into its economy.

What struck me as most tragic during my travels in Nigeria were the vast numbers of children roaming the streets of cities and towns during the day. Clearly they were not in any kind of educational program. Imagine if that stolen \$400 billion of oil wealth had instead been invested in their education! Generations would have been educated and been able to turn their hands to helping others as teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers and entrepreneurs! The waste in human capital is almost immeasurable.

Corruption not only results in enormous economic disparity, it also results in pervasive insecurity. Nigeria is a dangerous place. That danger is increased by the presence

of Boko Haram—an extremist insurgency that caught the world's attention by kidnapping schoolgirls in 2014. But they have been actively creating carnage across northern Nigeria for many years.

Why haven't they been stopped?

According to Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, it's largely due to corruption⁵. Not only does economic disparity and injustice fuel violence but the Nigerian military and police are so corrupt they are ineffective in combatting violence when it does occur.

Of course, if we had the opportunity to be one of the officials who is personally financially benefitting from corruption, we might be tempted.

But we should remember this: the greatest wealth is to live in a society that is free from fear. What is the point of having wealth if our environment is destroyed all around us, if we fear going outside our homes, if we even live in fear within our homes? Yes, we may be able to get more stuff than other people but the cost is far too high if in the process we've destroyed the nation we live in. Like the fish that poos in its own pond, corrupt officials are destroying the nation that they live in.

Of course, some wealthy Nigerians leave their homeland and move to Europe or the US. No doubt their money buys them a lot of things. But there's one thing you cannot buy with money—respect. Because of

Nigeria's reputation for corruption, these wealthy men and women are not respected around the world. People may smile to their faces but behind their backs they think, "I wonder what he did to afford that luxury car and expensive hotel . . ."

I appeal to the Adventists serving in government in PNG: Do not let PNG become the Nigeria of the Pacific.

There is an alternative model. And it's also found on the continent of Africa. The nation's name is Botswana.

Let's not pretend all is well in Botswana; it isn't. The nation faces many challenges, including a very high rate of HIV/AIDS. But it's facing those challenges with strength and determination.

I first became aware of Botswana's exceptional strength when I met a large group of its students who were in South Africa studying at university. They told me that their government had sponsored their studies.

How could a small, landlocked nation—roughly 70 per cent desert and which borders the economic catastrophe of Zimbabwe—afford to send its students abroad for higher education? It turns out that Botswana has found the secret to true prosperity.

If you look at Transparency International's map of Africa, you'll see that Botswana stands out. And for the best reason—it's far less corrupt than all of its neighbours, includ-

But we should remember this: the greatest wealth is to live in a society that is free from fear.

ing South Africa. In fact, Botswana is now ranked the 31st least corrupt nation on earth. It's less corrupt than Spain or Israel! Less corrupt than South Korea or Italy!⁶

And what a difference that has made for the people of Botswana.

The *CIA Fact Book* puts it this way: "Through fiscal discipline and sound management, Botswana transformed itself from one of the poorest countries in the world to a middle-income country with a per capita GDP of \$16,400 in 2013."⁷

To put that in comparison, Botswana now has a GDP per capita that is close to seven times the PNG GDP per capita. It's an impressive achievement. And a model well worth emulating.

But much more important than the size of the GDP per capita is how it's distributed. According to the HDI, Botswana is now ranked a medium development nation. It even sits above South Africa.

Now you may, at this point, believe the connection between honesty and economic prosperity is just a fluke. After all, I've only given two examples. But if you look at the countries with the highest HDIs and then at the nations with the highest honesty rankings in 2013, you will notice a startling overlap. Indeed, eight of the 10 nations with the highest HDIs are also in the top 10 for honesty. And the other two fall just outside the top 10.

A prosperous, healthy, well-educated nation must be an honest nation. There is no alternative.

And just as interesting, there is an almost perfect fit for nations with a high Gender Equality Index and low corruption ranking.⁸ Is this because women are more honest than men? Maybe. But there's likely to be another reason—corruption breeds abuse of all kinds. And this includes the abuse of women.

So how is PNG travelling? Is it currently on the road to becoming a success story like Botswana? Or is it on the trajectory to become another Nigeria?

In the 2014 Transparency International ranking, PNG did not do well. Indeed, it is worse than that. PNG was ranked nine places below Nigeria.⁹

It breaks my heart to write that.

But just in case you doubt Transparency International, consider what *The Economist* had to say recently: "PNG's governments are notorious for corruption, and ever run the risk of turning the state into a fully-fledged kleptocracy."¹⁰

It breaks my heart because I think of all the religious fervour in PNG. But if religion doesn't translate into action what is the point? In the book of James we're told: "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you" (James 1:27).

The truth is that in Nigeria I saw so many, many people who are destitute. Just absolutely neglected in every way. And why? Because the leaders of that nation have allowed themselves to be, as James puts it, corrupted by this world.

And this is the burden on my heart: that the very same

thing is happening in PNG. And much of the wealth, opportunity and potential of that great land will be wasted because Christians will choose to be corrupted by this world rather than standing tall and being honest and honourable men and women.

But it doesn't have to be that way. PNG could face a future like Botswana. It could leapfrog forward in development. It could be a nation that comes close to eliminating extreme poverty. Education, health care, infrastructure, business, respect for women and the environment can all move forward in balance and harmony.

We should all study Botswana. How did they develop a culture of honesty in a region plagued by corruption? How did disparate people groups come together to raise up everyone? How did they adopt a vision for development that goes beyond giving lip service to ideals and actually implement them?

Corruption is not, of course, just a problem in developing nations. Western banks provide off-shore accounts knowing the deposits they are benefitting from come from the exploitation of the poor, and many individuals and firms in Western nations have knowingly accepted money from corrupt leaders in exchange for everything from real estate to luxury goods. Without Western complicity, the large scale corruption that plagues so many developing nations could not occur.

Life is short. Life is unpredictable. What is certain is that all of us only have a little while to walk this earth. And after a brief appearance on this world's stage, we shuffle off to await the Judge. Make no mistake: God will not hold us faultless if we take money that's not ours. God will not hold us faultless if we use our position to unfairly enrich ourselves. God will not hold us faultless if we create a system designed to give power to the rich while leaving the poor powerless. Let's remember Jesus' parable about the rich man and Lazarus, and tremble at God's awesome rebuke.

Honesty. Humility. Humanity. These are core Christian attributes. They also happen to be the attributes necessary to build a great nation. May each of us exhibit them as we strive to build our lives and our nations upon the principles of justice, freedom, opportunity and transparency. ➤

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3. <http://www.expatarrivals.com/nigeria/cost-of-living-in-nigeria>
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James Standish is Religious Liberty and Public Affairs director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the South Pacific. This article is based on a speech he delivered to PNG politicians and community leaders in 2014.

Share

by Dr Jessica Trevithick



ACCORDING TO MOST STUDIES, PEOPLE'S NUMBER one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy!" So jokes comedian Jerry Seinfeld. As with all of the best humour, there's an element of truth to his observation. But not for me.

Sometimes I'm filled with nervous anticipation and other times with the boldness of God's words, but either way I love publicly sharing the love of God. It's core to who I am as a disciple of a Man who never shied away from spreading the gospel far and wide. Why? I've got good news to share. The best news this world has ever had. And I cannot keep it to myself!

Today I'm speaking at the North NSW Women's Conference. As I look out at the sea of beautiful faces I observe the beauty of God's creation in each and every person. The women are from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and experiences. I long and pray that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit and touched by God's words.

The research is done. The study and long hours have been placed into the message. Now my thought is, will I reach those who need the message God has given me? My earnest and heartfelt prayer is for God's words to be the words that spill from my lips as the Holy Spirit takes over.

Over the weekend women get in touch with their inner beauty—their beauty from within—as they reflect on the inner beauty that Jesus saw in the women of the Bible.

We look at the inner beauty of Jesus' first evangelist, the Samaritan women. He doesn't make an emphasis on her sin; instead He focuses on her and the good message that the Messiah had come.

We examine Mary's inner beauty of faith. Mary gave her most valuable gift to Jesus—spikenard. I have authentic spikenard from Israel with me; just one drop in a small jar for each person as they use their sense of smell, making the story come alive all these thousands of kilometres and years away from when Mary washed Christ's feet.

I finish speaking. Did the Holy Spirit move? Was I able to convey just a little of the immense value God places on every one of the women at this conference? In a world awash with corrosive and exploitative images of women, have I been able to communicate just a fraction of the immense beauty and dignity, the immeasurable value of each one of the women gathered here? It's hard to say.

A young woman walks by and as she does, she pushes a note into my hand and quietly walks away.

I anxiously open the letter and read:

"Dear Jessica, this is my first introduction to the Adventist Church. I have only felt love. For me, this is overwhelming as my entire life I've only felt rejection. No-one has ever told me I am beautiful, worthy, loved or wanted. Since hearing the message from you my whole concept of beauty has totally changed. I feel like a beautiful, worthy princess. I now know I'm here for a purpose and I'm excited about what God has for me in the future. Thank you for having such an amazing impact on my life. You have created in me a passion to pursue my hopes and dreams. You have helped me learn how to love myself and treat myself with love and respect and worth. I want to learn more about God and His Word and apply it to my life. I want to make an impact on others' lives like you do."

As I read the note, I'm overwhelmed with tears. I fall on my knees and seek the One who knows everything and pray for this young woman. The next day I hear more of her story and her deep yearning to return to her Maker. We are now studying the Bible together. Two women with one goal: to be like Jesus.

I now know that every time I share the love of Christ I open a window for people to accept Him. There's no need to be shy about my love for Him. Christ died very publicly for me. Why not publicly share the good news? By so doing it changes me for the better and I can be used to provide a lifeline to others.

R

Dr Jessica Trevithick is an evangelist, motivational speaker, creative, leadership trainer, author and theologian.



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God created Adam and Eve and surrounded them with gifts of love. He only asked them not to touch the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But Eve gives in to Satan's temptation and then shares the fruit with Adam. When God comes looking for them they each blame one another for their sin. Good News! God has a plan to conquer their sin.

HOW WILL GOD FIND ADAM AND EVE?

COLLECT THE LETTERS AND FILL IN THE BLANK BELOW



"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9, NIV

LETTERS

WINE IS NEVER FINE!

Trevor Greive, Qld

Re: "Is Wine Fine?"
(Feature, November 21, 2015).
Two spurious assertions stand out: Firstly, that there is no Bible verse that supports "total abstinence". Absolutely not true! Leviticus 10:9,10 and 11 clearly state God's opinion: a) That alcohol impairs one's moral judgement, making it impossible to consistently distinguish between what is holy and what is unholy, and between what is unclean and what is clean! b) Priests who dared to lead worship in God's house whilst under the influence of alcohol were guilty of a capital offence. c) This was to be a precept in Israel forever. Members, and not just the ordained ministers of the remnant church, are all described as a royal priesthood and part of spiritual Israel.

Secondly, that Jesus drank wine—that when He was near death on the cross he "received" sour wine (John 19:28-30). The writer's interpretation of the word "received" is unjustified. There is no basis for regarding this as a separate incident to the accounts in Matthew 27:34 and Mark 15:36,37. Clearly, despite His dying agony, once Jesus had recognised what had been put to His lips, He refused to drink. The Spirit of Prophecy in *Desire of Ages* (chapter 78) treats these three accounts as referring to the same one-time event. Furthermore, the prophecy of David in Psalms 69:20,21 speaks of a single event.

At any stage in history, what secular people or non-Bible believing nominal

Christians thought or did is irrelevant to the present discussion. In Matthew 18:6 Jesus delivered a sobering judgement on those who caused the "young" to stumble and sin. Wine, or any form of alcoholic beverage, diluted or not, is NEVER FINE.

Response: **Anthony MacPherson**, author

Let me clarify a few things: Leviticus 10 clearly prohibits priests from drinking wine when serving in the temple. It is not, however, on its own, a verse that says everyone, everywhere, always must abstain.

The letter-writer then goes on to take this specific command as a principle and combines it with the idea that all believers are priests, and, therefore, all should abstain. Well done! You are attempting a principle-based abstinence position but note you are also conceding my point—the verse on its own was not enough. It didn't say "total abstinence for all". I never said we can't build a case for abstinence (quite the opposite, I express the confidence we can, especially, with helpful knowledge of the ancient world) but I do (still) say there is no magic silver-bullet verse.

Also *Desire of Ages* does not treat these three accounts as one. On page 746 is reference to Jesus' refusal to take "stupefying" wine mixed with gall at the start of His terrible ordeal. Later, on pages 754,755, is the reference to Jesus saying "I thirst" and being offered vinegar (no stupefying element!) by a Roman soldier touched by pity for Jesus. He receives

this non-alcoholic drink. This is at the end of His ordeal. These are clearly two different incidents for Scripture, Ellen White, many Bible commentators and myself.

The letter-writer seems to misread my article (as have several others). I'm not advocating drinking alcoholic wine—diluted or otherwise. Nor am I trying to construct the abstinence position. All I am doing is showing that modern moderationists who imagine that they drink the same way the ancients drunk, do not! That full strength wine is often the least likely scenario in Scripture. At worst, it was usually diluted (sometimes several times) alcoholic wine, and at best it was often non-alcoholic wine (boiled down then later diluted/boiled grapes/fresh grapes/vinegar etc). This preliminary historical clarification surely helps us construct an abstinence position.

Correction: The "Is Wine Fine?" article gives "Symposiacs" as the source for the Plutarch quote. This is incorrect. The reference is from his work "Moralia": "We call a mixture 'wine' although the larger part of the component parts is water" (Plutarch, Advice to Bride and Groom, Moralia). Also, the Pliny's reference is found in Natural History XIV, VI.

Note: Views in letters do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the denomination. Letters should be less than 250 words, and writers must include their name, address and phone number. All letters are edited to meet space and literary requirements, but the author's original meaning will not be changed. Not all letters received are published. See Page 4 for contact details.

ANNIVERSARIES



Gotts. Phillip and Wilmer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 19.11.15. They shared the happy occasion with their daughters Rouvea, Tiani and Melea, along with their families and a large group of friends. We thank God for blessing their marriage and wish them continued blessings in the future.

Lorenzo Berry



Wells. George and Ailsa were married 29.8.1955 by Pastor Mel

Stewart in the old Ipswich church, Qld. On 30.8.15 at the current Ipswich church (Brassall) they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The day was filled with special music and testimonies from close family and friends. Even though Ailsa's eyesight and hearing are limited, the memories of the day will be something she will always treasure. Through ups and downs George stated they have had a wonderful and happy marriage because they love the Lord. Singing together has also helped them to stay close to God and each other.

Colin Richardson

WEDDINGS



Edwards—Sonter. Morgan Graham Edwards, son of Zane

Jonathan Edwards (Jerrabomberra, NSW) and Lydele Ann Thoresen (Canberra, ACT), and Amy Elizabeth Sonter, daughter of Bob Allen Sonter (Mt Kuring-gai, NSW) and Tracey Darlene Hughes (Cooranbong), were married 22.11.15 on a property in Brunkerville.

Nick Kross



Moss—Coffey. Adrian Moss, son of Mary and Peter Moss (Wokolena, Warrumbungles, NSW), and Elianne Coffey, daughter of Fiona and David Coffey (Singleton), were married 14.9.15 in the Lovedale Chapel. Adrian and Elianne met in Singleton in 2012 while she was studying engineering and he was at the Australian Defence Force Special Forces Training Centre. He

proposed two years after they met, on Anzac Day, on their favourite cliff overlooking the Hunter Valley. They both now live and work in Darwin, NT, and are loving the eternal summer.



Richardson—Kaewkhiao. Kelden Richardson, son of

Pastor Colin and Merian Richardson (Orange, NSW), and Konkanok ("Noiy") Kaewkhiao, daughter of Konnika and Neville Caperero (Griffith), were married 2.12.15 at Flowerdale Estate, Strath Creek, Vic. Kelden and Noiy are both biomedical science students in Melbourne, and will continue to live and study there. Family travelled from Thailand, WA, Qld and NSW to share this joyous occasion.



Salomon—Gorry. Ramon Salomon, son of Vic and Gaylene Salomon (Ipswich, Qld), and Sheydin Gorry, daughter of Alan and Sandra Gorry (Little Mountain), were married 15.11.15 in a little white chapel at Weddings at Tiffany's, Maleny. Ramon and Sheydin first met at a South Queensland youth rally a couple of years ago, and this was a beginning of a friendship that led them to become life partners. It was a joy and blessing to see them both make a life commitment to God and to each other.

Francis Pule



Toms—Plahn. Samazan Toms, son of George and Shahina, and

Lauren Plahn, daughter of Doug and Judy, were married 29.10.15 in the Old Glenmore Homestead, Qld. Lauren has spent all her life in the city of Rockhampton. Sam was born in Liverpool, Sydney, and for the past few years has lived in the Rockhampton/ Yeppoon area. They have set up their home in Gracemere and we wish them God's blessings.

Lewis G Parker

eral Hospital, Qld. He is survived by his wife Joan; children Mark and Donna (Chilton, Vic), Andrew and Regina (Robina, Qld), and Leonie and Stanley Freeman (Ipswich); eight grandchildren; and his brother Richard and Lyn (Cooranbong, NSW). Geoff was well known from Wynnum and Carbrook churches and many people attended his memorial service. He loved his garden and loved people. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. We look forward to the resurrection.

Ray Fraser

Brine, Clarence Douglas (Doug), born 1925 in Ardrossan, SA; died 24.2.15 in Cooranbong, NSW. Doug is survived by his wife Rosalie (Naracoorte, SA); daughter Helen and family (Sydney, NSW) and son David and Katrina (Naracoorte, SA). Doug was a farmer who enjoyed the fruits of his labours. A man of strong, uncompromising faith, he was loyal to both God and the church. A quiet achiever, Doug was respected in the community for his silent witness as one who kept the commandments of God and had a deep love for his family. He was placed into God's care at the Avondale Memorial Cemetery.

Eric H Winter

Cavallaro, Iolanda Franca, born 10.3.1921 in Catania, Italy; died 22.10.2015 in hospital in Sydney, NSW. In 1939 she married Salvatore Cavallaro and they came to Australia in 1953. She was predeceased by her husband in 1992 and her two sons Giuseppe and Joseph. She is survived by her daughter-in-law Raylee; grandson Anthony and his wife Ellen Bashanti; and her two sisters Maria and Elena. Iolanda was baptised in 1985 by Pastor Alan Butler. She attended the Hurst-

ville church and later the Italian church in Guildford. She was a talented seamstress and a great cook. Iolanda was a very social lady who enjoyed the company of family and friends. Her home was always open.

John O'Malley, Jimmy Cha

Cherry, Audrey Mavis, born 14.10.1926 in Miles, Qld; died 6.10.15 in Bundaberg. She is survived by her husband Frank; and their children Peter, Errol, Noel, Sharon and Malcolm. Audrey served as a missionary in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea in 1949 and 1958. She had a passion for gardening and cooking for family. She enjoyed visits with her children and grandchildren and was dedicated to local church missions. She was loved by all and will never be forgotten.

Andrew Litchfield

Grace, Lyndon Sydney Brigden, born 28.5.1947; died 2.11.15 at his home in Whiporie, NSW. He is survived by his family, Kay, Penny, Arthur, Carmel, Mathew, Yvonne, Graeme and Phillip. Lyndon was known for his gentle, easy-going, warm and friendly nature, a man who loved his garden and the outdoors. He will be sadly missed until we meet again when our Lord returns.

Tim Merritt

Jackson, Herbert, born 17.1.1929 in Malvern, Vic; died 2.7.15 in Carrum. He married Esmæ Grimes. He is survived by his wife; five children; 17 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Bert is sadly missed by his family and friends.

Barry Whelan

Marter, Leopold Irvine, born 15.2.1925 in Hawera, NZ; died 4.9.15 in Tauranga. He is survived by his wife Enid (Tauranga);

VOLUNTEERS

■ **Trade/skilled volunteers needed to help build churches in Vanuatu.** The structure is pre-fabricated steel. The conditions will be rough: tenting, solar showers, local food. We need a team of 8-10 people per church. If you have a team willing to go during the months of February to July, we'd love to hear from you. We want to build as many churches as possible before July. Maranatha teams will be in Vanuatu co-sharing the building with volunteers from March 31 to April 12 and we need approx. 20 skilled tradies to assist with this. For more details contact Maryanne Jakovac at <volunteers@adventist.org.au>.

OBITUARIES

Anderson, Geoffrey Arnold, born 2.12.1941 in Camberwell, Vic; died 14.11.15 in the Ipswich Gen-

daughters Helen (Sydney, NSW) and Judith and her husband Martin (Sydney); and four grandchildren: Brad, Brooke, Matthew and Bree. Leo was a much-loved and respected husband, father, grandfather and friend. He had a great love for God and served Him as an elder in his home church, Hawera, and later in Palmerston North. Leo is now awaiting that great reunion day.

Andrew West

Merritt, Edith Matilda, born 16.5.1918 in Hobart, Tas; died 9.10.15 in Alstonville, NSW. In 1953 she married Gordon Edgar Merritt, who predeceased her in 1993. She is survived by her children Dawn, Howard and Peter. Edith was known for her vibrancy, longevity and most of all her commitment to God and her family. She longed for the second coming of Jesus and never missed an opportunity to share her faith. She will be sadly missed and forever in our hearts.

Tim Merritt

Nelson Doust, Bathsbeba Kate, born 13.11.1980 in Ipswich, Qld; died 22.8.15 in Goonellabah, NSW. She spent time in Inverell before settling in the Lismore area. She is survived by her daughter Isabella Doust. Kate was known for her kind, fun-loving disposition. She was vivacious, open, honest, happy and very generous. She will be sadly missed by all her family and forever in our hearts.

Tim Merritt



Piscak, Helena (nee Njerges), born 7.9.1915 in Privlaka, Croatia; died 9.11.15. She was the fourth of 10 children. In September 2015 she celebrated her 100th birthday with her large church family in Seddon, Vic. She is survived by her two daughters; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; her only

remaining sister in Croatia; and extended family in Australia and overseas. Helena's life was filled with hospitality, catering at many church weddings and collecting for ADRA appeals. She will be greatly missed.

Peter Joseit, Boriss Soldat

Redmond, Keith Joseph, born 29.1.1927 in Forest Glen, Qld; died 1.11.15 in Nambour. He is survived by his wife Elaine (Sunshine Coast); Trevor and Annette (Gold Coast), Andrew and Vicki (Woombye), and Denise and Will (London, UK); and seven grandchildren. Keith loved life, his family and being in the great outdoors. He was a quiet man with a great faith in Jesus, his Saviour. He now awaits the resurrection morning.

Mark Pearce

Stephen, Mary Wendy (nee Pokopu), born 5.7.1955 in Manus, PNG; died 3.10.14 in Port Moresby. On 27.1.1970 she married Pastor Wilson Stephen. She is survived by her husband; and their children: Kelly, Kendle, Beverly Stephen Baki and Belinda Stephen. Mary served as Partners in Ministry (Shepherdess director) of PNG Union Mission from 1995 to 2002. She served alongside her husband for 31 years until retirement in 2002.

Pastor Wattman



Whitsed, Neville Boradaile, born 17.3.1935 in Dowerin, WA; died 3.10.15 at home in Kellerberrin, WA. On 16.7.1961 he married Maureen Stewart in Nunawading, Vic. He is survived by his wife and their four children: Brett, Jeffery (both of Toowoomba, Qld), Denise and Narelle (both of Perth, WA), their spouses; and seven grandchildren. Neville was a man who had a strong faith in God which helped him through his long struggle with cancer. He was

nursed at home by Maureen as his illness progressed. He was a founding member of the Bencubbin church and later a member of the Merredin church.

Malcolm Eastwick

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—Abraham Lincoln

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■ **Case manager—Safe Place Services (AUC) (Wahroonga, NSW)**. This is a six months contracted role (until June 2016) while the new child and vulnerable people protection service for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church is being established. This role will provide a case management service to victims/survivors of sexual abuse within the Church and its environments across Australia and New Zealand. The ideal candidate will have at least two years in case management, a relevant degree in social work, counselling or other related field. The position is ideally full-time, however may also be part-time for the right candidate. The position is available immediately. Please forward your CV along with a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to the Safe Place Services director David Robertson <DavidRobertson@adventist.org.au>. Applications close **February 29, 2016**.

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